DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 342 833 UD 028 401

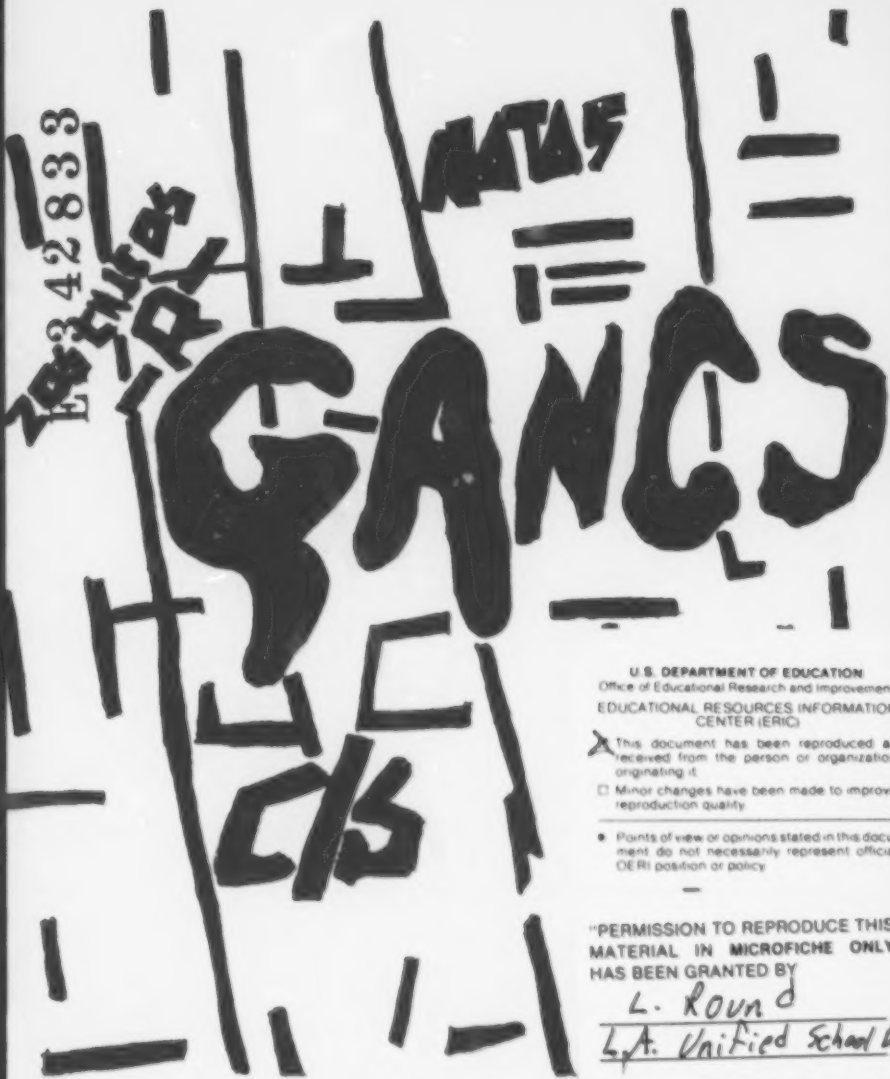
AUTHOR Ponce, Ernest, Comp.
TITLE Gangs: A Handbook for Teachers and Counselors Working with Immigrant Students. Publication No. GC-123.
INSTITUTION Los Angeles Unified School District, Calif.
PUB DATE 90
NOTE 34p.
PUB TYPE Guides - Non-Classroom Use (055) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)

EDRS PRICE MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Asian Americans; *Black Youth; Crime; Delinquency; Drug Abuse; Economically Disadvantaged; *Hispanic Americans; *Immigrants; *Juvenile Gangs; Racial Relations; Secondary Education; Urban Problems; Urban Schools; *Urban Youth; Violence; Whites
IDENTIFIERS *California (Los Angeles); Latinos

ABSTRACT

This handbook provides information about gangs for education professionals working with immigrants. As the introduction makes clear, gangs are one of the many problems that newly arrived immigrants face in their neighborhoods and at school in the United States. Following the introduction, the first section describes the types of gangs including social gangs, delinquent gangs, and violent gangs. The second section explains gang ethnicity for the following groups: (1) Latino gangs; (2) Black gangs; (3) predominantly White gangs; and (4) Asian gangs. The third section lists and discusses reasons for gang membership, which include identity, protection, fellowship, and intimidation. A general profile of gang-related youth lists family, personal, community, and school related indicators. Examples of gang activities are described, including drive-by-shootings, graffiti, robbery and aggravated assault, and drug use. A chart that is designed to show youth the long-term negative educational and life consequences of gang membership is presented. Also listed are ways teachers can help, gang slang with "translation," common gang hand-signs, and selected community resources. (JB)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL IN MICROFICHE ONLY HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

L. Round
L.A. Unified School Dist.

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

UD028401

A HANDBOOK FOR TEACHERS AND COUNSELORS WORKING WITH IMMIGRANT STUDENTS

Publication No. GC-123

2 BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Copyright © 1990
Los Angeles Unified School District

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments ii

Introduction iii

Types of Gangs 1

Gang Ethnicity 4

Reasons for Gang Membership 12

General Profile of Gang-Related Youth 14

Examples of Gang Activities 18

Move 'em Out of Your Life! (Chart) 21

There Is More to Life Than Gangs,
So Why Waste Your Time 22

Life-Saving Advice for Students 23

How Teachers Can Help 24

Gangbanger's Slang Glossary 25

Common Gang Handsigns 27

Community Resources 28

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Ernest Ponce, Advisor for The Emergency Immigrant Education Assistance Program (EIEAP) and The Transition Program for Refugee Children (TPRC), compiled the materials for gangs from the following sources:

- Ontario Police Department
- Larry J. Siegel and Joseph J. Senna
- L.A. County Office of Education, Division of Juvenile Court and Community Schools
- Los Angeles Police Department Asian Gang Task Force
- J. Michael Kwok, Advisor, EIEAP
- Dr. Louis Gonzales, Ph.D.
- Harbor Area Gang Alternatives Program
- Tom Bowers
- Lilia Lopez, Ph.D., Coordinator, Office of Instruction

Lila Silvern, Coordinator
EIEAP/TPRC

APPROVED:

AMELIA McKENNA
Assistant Superintendent
Office of Bilingual-ESL Instruction

PAUL M. POSSEMATO
Associate Superintendent
Office of Instruction

INTRODUCTION

Since its inception in 1984, the Emergency Immigrant Education Assistance Program (EIEAP) has been an innovative force providing services to immigrant students in Los Angeles.

The program has presented strategies for helping immigrant students express the trauma of leaving their homelands and the difficulties in adjusting to their newly adopted country.

Gangs are one of the major problems facing newly arrived immigrants in their neighborhoods and in schools. To deal with this growing crisis, EIEAP launched a campaign to make teachers and counselors aware of the problems so that they can bring about prevention and positive change.

This handbook on gangs was created by Ernest Ponce, EIEAP Advisor, to help teachers, counselors and administrators better serve immigrant students.

TYPES OF GANGS

THE SOCIAL GANG

The social gang is a relatively permanent group that hangs out at a specific location such as a store or street corner. Members develop a sense of comradeship and often engage in organized group activities, including dancing, discussions, and athletic events. The group stays together because of mutual attraction among its members as well as the need for protection, and it fulfills the need for acceptance. The general feeling is that the group will provide the means for a better, more enjoyable life and that group activities are superior to individual activities.

The social gang is not likely to participate in serious delinquent activities and will engage in physical violence only if members are attacked and retaliation is unavoidable.

THE DELINQUENT GANG

The delinquent gang is a cohesive group organized around the principle of monetary gain from delinquent activities. Its members depend on one another to carry out planned activities and to provide help if necessary. The leader who usually emerges is the most competent at stealing and is

an excellent organizer and planner. Members of this type of gang are usually emotionally stable and therefore able to organize their time and efforts for criminal activities. Gang activity is viewed as a way of getting ahead in the world. The delinquent gang member accepts the goals of the larger society, such as wealth, success, and power but may reject the legitimate means available for attaining them. Delinquent gang membership is not viewed as a stepping-stone to adult criminal behavior. It exists to satisfy present needs.

THE VIOLENT GANG

The violent gang is organized to obtain the emotional gratification that violent activities can bring to youths. Members spend their time building arsenals and planning and carrying out violent acts.

Leaders of violent gangs tend to be emotionally unstable, and they have a need to control and direct others. Both leaders and followers tend to overestimate the importance, size, and power of their group. The structure of violent gangs is constantly changing. Allies one day become enemies the next day, according to the dictates of gang leaders. The violent gang is also identified by intragroup violence. Sometimes this is verbal in nature, and at other times, hostility and aggression take physical forms.

Violent gangs appear to emerge almost spontaneously. They provide a vehicle for violent hostile youths to act out their aggressions and personal problems. Membership in violent gangs is fluid. There is a widespread belief that complex initiation rites take place before a youth can join a violent gang and that the rites often entail enduring physical pain and proving one's courage.

Reprinted, with changes, from Larry J. Siegel and Joseph J. Senna, Juvenile Delinquency: Theory, Practice, and Law, (St. Paul, MN: West Publishing Company, 1988), by permission of the publisher.

GANG ETHNICITY

LATINO GANGS

Since the late 1960s the 18th Street gang has become the code setter for Latino gangs. The 18th Street gang was the first gang primarily composed of illegal aliens. Offshoots of the 18th Street gang now exist in Los Angeles, Sunland, Cudahy, and San Francisco and are the most notorious Latino gangs of today. The 18th Street gang was the first group to condone indiscriminate drive-by shootings.

Drugs are an integral part of the gang structure. Today there is tremendous abuse of PCP among Latino gang members. The members that defend the honor of the gang by shooting or killing opposing members are identified as "Vato Locos" (crazy guys). This group is usually the smallest in number but includes the most hard-core members.

The Latino gang members are very neat and clean in appearance. They wear short, cropped hair and their dress is impeccable. They wear Pendleton shirts, athletic T-shirts, bandanas, khaki pants, watch caps, sometimes zoot suits, and overshined shoes. They will often wear earrings, rosaries hanging from their belts, and hair nets. They sometimes have arm and body tattoos.

The primary goal of the Latino gang member is to be identified as being different or "bad." Gang members look at others and think, "I'm better than you, my way of living and my world are better than yours." They enjoy being viewed as "bad dudes"--it builds their self-esteem, their ego. They embrace their own set of reversed values. What others find positive they find negative and vice versa.

There is tremendous respect among Latino gang members, even though they are killing one another. A member from one gang will never snitch on an enemy gang member, nor will he act as a witness if an enemy kills one of his own gang members. They will often be arrested and go to jail rather than break this Latino code by which they live.

There is little respect for authority figures, most of all for the school. However, gang members will not interfere with religion. Religion is considered virtuous, even though it is a contradiction to their basic philosophy.

Reprinted, with changes, from Instructional Assistance Handbook, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Division of Juvenile Court and Community Schools, Los Angeles, May 1988.

BLACK GANGS

Black gangs were increasingly moving in the direction of Mexican gangs. The mentality and attitudes were becoming very similar. However, rock cocaine and drug dealing have become the most important factors in the life of black gang members at this time.

The Crips are the largest group outnumbering the Bloods by about two to one in Los Angeles County. Black gangs are known as "sets," and all sets associated with the Crips use the word "Crip" within the name (e.g., the "Rolling 60's Crips," "Playground Crips" and "Hoover Crips"). There is much fighting among Crip groups. "Blood" sets, on the other hand, will usually not have a specific name designating them as Bloods, nor will they fight among Blood sets.

Black gang members identify themselves by the use of colors. Black gang members will use as many items of clothing as possible with their respective colors. They wear handkerchiefs called "flags" or "rags" to identify their affiliations. If a Crip member and a Blood member are riding on the same bus and spot the opposing color, it is justification for attacking or assaulting the enemy. The Crips use the color blue and the Bloods use the color red.

A new use of colors is by gang members who advertise themselves as drug dealers by wearing green jackets. Other typical clothing might include black T-shirts, tennis shoes with colored laces, canvas shoes, gold caps, jeans with rolled cuffs, and gangster hats, brim hats, or godfather hats. Tattoos are not common among black gang members.

Schools hold very little significance for the black gang member. Violence, retaliation, and killing are not only acceptable, but a way of life. Black gangs consider territory important and defend it because it represents an area from which to sell drugs.

In the prison system, the "Consolidation Crips Association" has been formed. This association is attempting to organize all Crips.

Reprinted, with changes, from Instructional Assistance Handbook, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Division of Juvenile Court and Community Schools, Los Angeles, May 1988.

STONER GANGS

Stoners may also be identified as heavy metalist. The mentality of the Stoner gangs is very different from that of other groups. The first Stoners were white youths from the Valley. They were bored and wanted to get high, and so coined

the name Stoners. They were identified with white supremacist, Ku Klux Klan, and Nazi philosophy. Today, Stoners incorporate all ethnic groups, and although white power symbolism is still used, devil worship is more prominent. Stoners have organized as a functional fighting gang. Their mind-set has its origins in the teachings of the Satanic Bible, written by Anton Levay. Levay believes that one should "live life the fullest because you are going to die anyway and there is nowhere beyond that." In other words, the basic philosophy of a Stoner gang member is "if you screw with me, it gives me license to do whatever to you." It is important to note that most of the Satanic heavy metal music was originally listened to for its shock value.

Gang members involved in the satanic aspect of this group will not typically display visible signs of this involvement. Others, characteristically, have long hair and often wear the jeans and T-shirts that represent heavy metal groups.

Stoners are anti-everything, especially authority. The establishment is the enemy. There is heavy drug use associated with this group. Violent crimes have been committed by this group throughout California. Stoners believe in violent reactions to perceived wrongs and can exhibit emotional extremes. Currently, white Stoners are seeking to disassociate themselves from Black and Mexican Stoners by dropping the Stoner name and

simply calling themselves Heavy Metalists or Satanic Heavy Metalist. Latino Stoners are the fastest-growing gang group in California with names like Mora Salva Trucha, Mid City Stoners and the Crazy Stoners, etc. They are adapting many of the characteristics of the traditional Latino gangs and are also fighting with them.

Reprinted, with changes, from Instructional Assistance Handbook, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Division of Juvenile Court and Community Schools, Los Angeles, May 1988.

ASIAN GANGS

Asian gangs dispel the myth of the model minority student. Gang members are primarily formed among new immigrants. First-wave immigrants usually are affluent and wealthy and have very few problems.

Second-, and particularly third-wave immigrants, are poor, lack education, lack friends, lack English skills, and have little parental guidance or support. Their families have moved into less affluent areas. More than likely, they are not living with their natural parents, but with a member of their extended family. They live in areas where racial prejudice and conflicts with existing gangs are common. Asian gang members are not interested in education; many cannot understand or

speak English, but they want the nicer things in life (the three "C's": Cars, Clothes, and Cash) **NOW**. They come from war-torn countries where survival skills are the only things they know. The gangs give them a new "family," new friends, protection from other racial groups, pride, and improved chances of survival. Members range in age from 13 to 25.

Asian gangs are not territorial, and it is common for a crime to take place over 400 miles from where a gang member lives. A gang member will "jump" from one gang to another. They tend to commit crimes in their own communities. Asian gang members are known to have dealt drugs and committed murder, robbery, burglary, extortion, auto theft, rape, intimidation of witnesses, welfare fraud, and false identification for the financial rewards. They are very sophisticated criminals and will learn the habits of the victim. Gang members will sometimes intimidate or assult family members of their intended victim in order to get what they want.

There is a large underreporting of crimes in the Asian community because of past experiences with corrupt officials and people in authority and an attitude that problems will be taken care of within the community. Some signs that identify Asian gang members are:

- Hair is combed back and sometimes bleached.
- Gang names and slogans are written on their shoes.

- Animal tattoos and burn marks are found mainly on the hands and arms, although this trend is diminishing because of its immediate identification. However, it is still used to show a member's courage or strength.
- Use of an alias.
- Lack of distinguishing attire or "colors." The idea is to use anonymity to protect the gang from shame and disgrace.

Saving face is a very important concept among Asian gangs. To lose face is the worst thing that can happen and is often corrected through violent revenge. Asian gang members will buy the best quality guns because guns symbolize power.

Compiled by J. Michael Kwok, Advisor, Emergency Immigrant Education Assistance Program, with information from the Los Angeles Police Department Asian Gang Task Force.

REASONS FOR GANG MEMBERSHIP

In many areas we find youth gangs restricted primarily to members of the Asian, Hispanic, or black cultures. Anglo youths, though they often join in cliques, do so primarily in motorcycle gangs, white supremacist groups, or around current fads, as opposed to street gangs.

Gang members ranges generally range in age from 13 to 21, with the average age being 18. Interviews of gang members indicate that the motivations for joining a gang are seldom understood by the gang members themselves and can vary from brotherhood to self-preservation, as listed below:

IDENTITY

The gang member cannot achieve an identity inside the dominant culture so he gains it in the gang culture. He often sees himself as a warrior protecting his barrio or neighborhood from the outside world.

PROTECTION

Joining a gang in a community with several gangs offers considerable protection from violence and attack from rival gangs.

FELLOWSHIP

Studies indicate that tight family structure is lacking in the home environment. Gang activity offers that closeness and that sense of belonging that is often lacking in the home.

INTIMIDATION

Avoiding membership can become very dangerous at this level of "recruitment." New members are forced to join by threats, violent beatings, and initiations in order to increase membership.

Though gangs generally organize themselves along racial lines, racial conflict between varying cultures is rare. Typically, violence is between black gangs or between Latino gangs. However, with the greater increase in Asian gangs, violence of black or Latino gangs against these new "intruders" is on the increase. A fight for territorial control and the lucrative drug market has recently begun, and school personnel need to be aware of these dynamics in their schools.

Reprinted, with changes, from Dr. Louis Gonzales, PhD., Maintaining Safe Schools: Gang Prevention in Schools (Oakland, CA: The Students At Risk Resource Network, 1987) by permission of the publisher.

GENERAL PROFILE OF GANG-RELATED YOUTH

FAMILY-RELATED INDICATORS

- Dysfunctional families
- Stressful home life
- Lack of parental involvement
- Low parental educational involvement
- Low parental expectations
- Limited-English-speaking home
- Abuse/neglect
- Ineffective parenting
- Permissive truancy attitudes
- Ethics not emphasized

PERSONAL INDICATORS

- Low motivation
- Low educational and occupational aspirations
- Low self-esteem
- Behavior/discipline problems
- Drug abuse
- Poor peer relations
- Negative police involvement
- Conflicting values regarding education
- Lack of goals/directions

COMMUNITY-RELATED INDICATORS

- Lack of community support services
- Lack of community support for schools
- High incidence of criminal activities
- Lack of school/community linkages
- Lack of recreation facilities
- High transient population
- Lack of youth employment opportunities
- Lack of commitment to solve the problem
- Denial

SCHOOL-RELATED INDICATORS

- Lack of training in the affective mode
- Low teacher expectations
- Poor academic background
- Conflict between home and school cultures
- Lack of educational options
- Negative school environment
- Lack of student responsibility
- Lack of effective attendance system
- Lack of effective discipline system

Identification with gangs usually does not happen overnight. Gang behavior can begin as early as elementary school and can be really noticeable by middle school.

Although there are no certain ways to predict who will join a gang and who will not, some

general indications that a youth may be headed toward gang membership are:

- Poor progress or achievement in school
- Low self-esteem
- Truancy from school
- Lack of hobbies or something to do with leisure time
- Resentment of authority
- Frequent negative contact with police
- Little perceived caring or acceptance on the part of school staff
- Drawing of gang "placas" or insignias
- Problems at home
- Tattoos
- Residence in a neighborhood where gangs exist
- Feeling of alienation from school, teachers, peers, family and society
- Friendship with gang members
- Being found seldom alone, but often in groups
- Preference for traditional gang attire
  - Clothing of a specific color (red, blue, etc.)
  - Plaid shirts
  - Leather gloves with fingers cut off
  - Oversized T-shirts
  - Bandanas of a specific color
  - Dark sunglasses
  - Baseball caps worn in a specific fashion

- Residence in a high-risk neighborhood
  - History of drug use and sales
  - High unemployment
  - Little or no recreation facilities
  - High transient population

- Identification with the martial arts

As with any indicators, these must be viewed in combination and not in isolation when determining a student to be a gang member.

Also, it is important to point out that although gang members may have a certain dress code, some are now avoiding outlandish dress to provide cover for themselves.

Very little is written about the role of young women in the gang phenomenon. However, they do play a mostly supportive role. Neighborhood gangs have their auxiliaries, groups of young women who in most cases are keepers of narcotic stashes, carriers of weapons, lookouts, and job casers. Not all gangs use women in violent acts, but of late, women have been forming their own cliques and performing criminal acts, including violence, against other women and men.

Reprinted, with changes, from Dr. Louis Gonzales, PhD., Maintaining Safe Schools: Gang Prevention in Schools (Oakland, CA: The Students At Risk Resource Network, 1987), by permission of the publisher.

EXAMPLES OF GANG ACTIVITIES

Research conducted in the area of youth gang membership has shown that many young people who join gangs do so primarily for the companionship and camaraderie that they perceive as being readily available and to fulfill their desire to identify with and belong to a group. Young people do not typically join gangs out of a desire to commit violent acts or engage in illegal activities. Inevitably, however, the gang will become involved in some type of illegal activity and violence. Current youth gangs have become violent entities.

In light of the recent escalation of youth gang-related crime and the increased use of guns and violence by gangs, the benefits that are believed to be gained by joining a gang are outweighed by the negative activities in which gangs involve themselves.

Some examples of negative gang activity are:

THE DRIVE-BY SHOOTING

A drive-by shooting occurs when gang members drive by and shoot at an opposing gang, gang member, a place where they believe the opposing gang congregates or what they believe to be the residence of an opposing gang member. Innocent bystanders are often injured or killed and property is damaged.

GRAFFITI

Gang members paint, write, or carve the gang's or their own name on a blank space or wall. Often another gang or gang member's name is marked over or crossed out and a retaliation will occur sometimes resulting in death.

ROBBERY AND AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

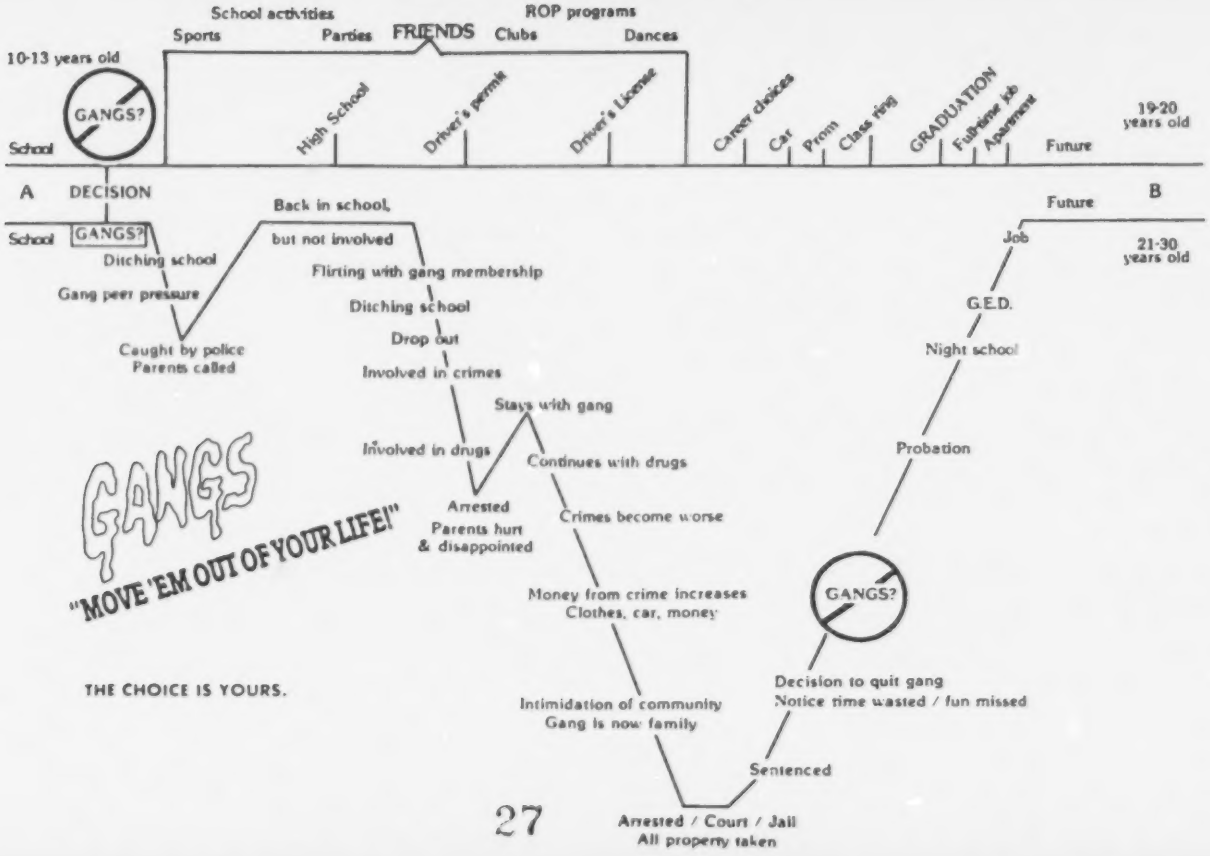
Within the county of Los Angeles, robbery and aggravated assault are two of the most common types of crimes that involved gangs. The Los Angeles Police and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department crime statistics indicate that during 1989, 1,851 robberies and 3,918 aggravated assaults were gang-related.

DRUG USAGE

Joining a gang increases one's exposure to drugs (including alcohol) and the probability of their use. A common method of obtaining an inexpensive high is by sniffing spray paint fumes. This is done by spraying the paint into a bag, sock, or rag, encircling the mouth and nose with it, and inhaling the fumes. This particular method of intoxication is extremely dangerous and can cause permanent damage to the brain, nervous system, liver, kidneys, spinal cord and blood. Gang members

indulge in drugs and alcohol as integral parts of gang activity.

The effects of these types of negative gang activity are not limited to the gang members themselves. Other family members and the community itself are affected, both emotionally and financially, by gang activity. Young people do not have to join gangs to find friends or to seek companionship. There are many other organizations that they can join or identify with. Parents must take the lead in redirecting their children from gangs to any one of the wholesome and supervised activities found in the community.


School activities
Sports
Parties
FRIENDS
ROP programs
Clubs
Dances
10-13 years old
GANGS?
School
High School
Driver's permit
Driver's License
Career choices
Car
Prom
Class ring
GRADUATION
Full-time job
Apartment
Future
19-20 years old
A
DECISION
School
GANGS?
Ditching school
Gang peer pressure
Caught by police
Parents called
Back in school,
but not involved
Flirting with gang membership
Ditching school
Drop out
Involved in crimes
Stays with gang
Involved in drugs
Continues with drugs
Arrested
Parents hurt
& disappointed
Crimes become worse
Money from crime increases
Clothes, car, money
Intimidation of community
Gang is now family
Sentenced
Arrested / Court / Jail
All property taken
Decision to quit gang
Notice time wasted / fun missed
GANGS?
Probation
Night school
G.E.D.
Job
Future
B
21-30 years old
GANGS
"MOVE 'EM OUT OF YOUR LIFE!"
THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

THERE IS MORE TO LIFE THAN GANGS, SO WHY WASTE YOUR TIME?

The intent of this chart is to show students how gangs waste the most valuable part of teenage life.

Those who choose the gang life style will find themselves gradually withdrawing farther and farther from social norms without realizing it. The needs of the gangs are much stronger than any influences that may surround a youth flirting with the idea of becoming a gang member. When a child makes the choice to join a gang, the needs of school and family are secondary. The immediate gratification of money, companionship and reward are much more enticing than the regimental structure of the educational system. Children often fall behind in school or cannot comprehend the subject taught. When this occurs, the decision to drop out of school is an easy one.

As this chart graphically explains, the choice to withdraw from school and family is a choice that will eventually lead to a life of crime, substance abuse and criminal detention. When a gangbanger decides to leave the gang, he will never be able to leave his past. The physical and emotional scars caused by the gang can harden a

youth forever. The criminal record and lack of formal education of a former gang member will narrow the choice of jobs that one can apply for and ultimately determine the income of the family unit.

Reprinted, with changes, from Larry J. Siegel and Joseph J. Senna, Juvenile Delinquency: Theory, Practice, and Law, (St. Paul, MN: West Publishing Company, 1988), by permission of the publisher.

LIFE-SAVING ADVICE FOR STUDENTS

Do not:

1. Associate with gang members.
2. Associate with wannabe ("want-to-be") gang members.
3. Hang out or gather in groups on street corners where gangs are active.
4. Approach individuals in cars who seemingly want information. (This could be a drive-by shooting setup.)
5. Wear any gang related color or clothing. Keep neutral in dress.
6. Wear expensive designer clothing that exposes the designer's initials. (Many gangs have assigned their own definitions to certain

initials, such as: B.K. = Blood Killers, C.K. = Crip Killers, C.M. = Crip Murderer.)

7. Use or say the word "crab" or "slob" in public. Both of these words are insults to either the Crips or Pirus.
8. Attend parties or social events of known or wannabe gang members.
9. Take part in writing graffiti or crossing out other graffiti.
10. Hang around graffiti-marked walls.

HOW TEACHERS CAN HELP

1. Respect all students.
2. Give students responsibilities that enhance their self-esteem.
3. Teach them to set positive goals for themselves.
4. Have high expectations for academic achievement.
5. Provide multicultural and self-esteem curriculum.
6. Talk to students about the negatives of gang involvement.
7. Set definite rules and challenge students on all gang activities.
8. Keep current on gang-related words or activities.
9. Show concern and compassion for gang kids.
10. Work with law enforcement agencies.
11. Be aware of other agencies that can help.

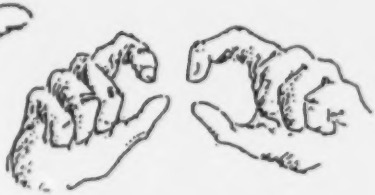
GANGBANGER'S SLANG GLOSSARY

Baller: A gangbanger who is making money
Birria: Beer
Buz: Drunk
Caile: Come here
Canton: House
Cap: A retort
Carnal: Brother
Carnala: Sister
Chale: No
Chupe: Drink (liquor)
Claim: Identify which neighborhood you are from
Clecha: School
Click up: To get along well with a gang member
Crab: Insulting term for a Crip
Cuz: Alternative greeting for a Crip
Down: To do right by your homeboys
Escrapa: Leva: Tramp
Firme: OK
Gangbanging: The activities of a gang
Gat: Gun
Give it up: To admit to something
Hangin', bangin' and slangin': To be out with gang members and imitating their ways and style of speech
Head up: To fight someone one-to-one
Hemmed up: To be hassled or arrested by the police
Hit-up: Asking someone to claim their neighborhood
Homeboy, Homegirl: Someone from your neighborhood
Jacket: A record or a reputation
Jefe: Father
Jefecita: Mother
Jumped in: To be initiated into a gang (by being beat up)
Juras: Police

Kickin' it: Relaxing with members of your gang
Liquido: Sherm; PCP, or Frias
Loc-ed out: (loco) Ready and willing to do anything
Make a move: Commit a crime; also manipulate
Mark: Someone afraid to commit a crime; punk
Mocosa: Little girl
Mocoso: Little boy
Mota: Marijuana
O.G.: Original Gangster
Oo-lah or Slob: Insulting term for a Blood
Perpetrate: Betray fellow gang members
Peseta: Nothing
Ponle: Do it
Put in work: Any perilous activity from fighting to murder that benefits the set or gang.
Que ondas: Que vole: What's up
Ranfla: Car
Ranker: Not claiming your neighborhood
Ruca: Hina: Girl
Set: Any of the various neighborhood gangs that fit within the larger framework of Bloods and Crips
Simon: Yes
Smoke: To kill someone
Top it off: To get along well with someone
Torcido: In jail
Trucha: Watch out
Vato: boy

COMMON GANG HANDSIGNS

EAST COAST CRIPS



COMPTON CRIPS

LOMAS

HOOVER CRIPS

NEIGHBORHOOD CRIPS

BISHOPS
(BLOODS)

18TH STREET

PUENTE

WILMAS

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Community Youth Sports and Arts Foundation
4828 Crenshaw Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90043
(213) 294-8320

Community Youth Gang Services
144 S. Fetterly
Los Angeles, CA 90022
(213) 266-4264

EL Centro De Amistad
208 Park Ave.
San Fernando, CA 91345
(818) 898-0223

El Centro Del Pueblo
840 Echo Park Ave.
Los Angeles, CA. 90026
(213) 250-1120

Los Angeles Police Dept.
Foothill Division Jeopardy Unit
12760 Osborne St.
Pacoima, CA 91331
(818) 989-8871

Los Angeles Unified School District
Office of Instruction
Mission S.O.A.R.
450 N. Grand Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 625-4054

Los Angeles Unified School District
Student Discipline Proceedings Office
450 N. Grand Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 625-4166

Maud Booth Family Center
11243 Kittridge St.
N. Hollywood, CA 91606
(818) 980-2287

Neighborhood Youth Association
3877 Grandview Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90066
(213) 390-6641

People Who Care Youth Center
1504 W. Slauson Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90047
(213) 778-8905

Project Heavy
7400 Van Nuys Blvd., Suite 203
Van Nuys, CA 91405
(818) 988-4389

Orange County Youth and
Family Services Program
Youth Gang Prevention and
Intervention Program
12912 Brookhurst St., Suite 385
Garden Grove, CA 92640
(714) 537-5976

Youth Intervention Program
1600 W. Slauson Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90047
(213) 752-9337

Youth Services Connection System
6851 Lennox Ave.
Van Nuys, CA 91405
(800) 2 GET HELP
(818) 908-5017